

21

MINEHEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C I E R O F H E A L T H

F O R T H E Y E A R

1 9 7 1



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29801916>

To the Minehead Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1971 on the health of the Minehead Urban District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area: 2,739 acres

Population: 8,080 (Registrar General's mid-year Estimate)

Rateable Value: £537,248

Sum represented by 1p rate: £5,238

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births:	Legitimate	..	..	38	33	71
	Illegitimate	..	..	2	4	6
Still Births:	Legitimate	..	..	2	1	3
	Illegitimate	..	..	-	-	-
Deaths from all causes		..	..	69	101	170
Deaths of Infants under 1 year		..	..	-	-	-
						<u>Adjusted rate</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population:				9.5		12.8
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:				21.0		9.7

England and Wales

Estimated Mid-Year Home Population: .. 48,815,000

		<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate</u>
Live Births	783,165	16.0 per 1,000 population
Still Births	9,898	12.0 per 1,000 total births
Deaths	567,345	11.6 per 1,000 population
Infant Mortality (deaths under 1 year of age)		..	13,726	18.0 per 1,000 live births

DEATHS

	<u>Cause</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other Tuberculosis	1	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases		..	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm Intestine	1	4	5
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	2	3	5
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm Prostate	2	-	2

/Leukaemia ...

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Leukaemia	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	5
Diabetes Mellitus	3
Other Endocrine Diseases	1
Anaemias	2
Mental Disorders	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1
Hypertensive Disease	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	..	25	44
Other Forms of Heart Disease	..	3	11
Cerebrovascular Disease	..	10	27
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	..	5	12
Pneumonia	..	6	16
Bronchitis and Emphysema	..	2	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	..	1	3
Appendicitis	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	..	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	1	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	3
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	2
Other Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	..	1	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	1	1
All Other Accidents	..	1	2
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	69	101	170

Climatic Conditions

<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Annual	958 mm	863 mm	817 mm
Average Yearly	846 mm	838 mm	848 mm
From 1st June to 30th September	275 mm	300 mm	238 mm
Days during period less than 0.3 mm	80	75	79
Days during period between			
0.3 and 1.0 mm	15	10	9
Days during period more than 1.0 mm	27	38	34

Temperatures

Highest Air	..	..	..	26.7°C	29.4°C	24°C (9th Sept)
Lowest Air	..	..	..	-4.4°C	-4.4°C	-4°C (5th Jan)
Lowest Air	..	..	..	-6.6°C	0°C	0°C (8th Dec)
Lowest Air during period 1st June -						
30th September	..	..	..	3.8°C	5.5°C	7°C (18th Sept)

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Disease

Notifiable Diseases

						<u>Total</u>
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	74
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	1
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	-
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	-
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	-
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	1
Infective Jaundice	..	..	..	..	..	1
Acute Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	-
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	1

In June 1971, a four-year old boy became ill with a salmonella typhimurium infection while on holiday on the South Coast. He returned to Minehead the following day and was admitted to hospital in Taunton. No other member of the boy's family became ill. The medical officer of health of the district on the south coast tried to trace the source of the infection but the trail was "cold".

In December, a woman was admitted to the Isolation Hospital because of an attack of infective hepatitis which she had contracted abroad, most probably during her journey back to this country.

There were no outbreaks of infectious disease at the Holiday Camp.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

Home Nursing, Midwives and Home Helps.

These services are provided by the Somerset County Council. On April 1st, 1971, the Home Help Service became the responsibility of the new Social Services Department.

Hospitals

The Minehead and West Somerset Hospital is managed by the West Somerset Hospital Management Committee. The Hospital provides medical, surgical and casualty treatment and out-patient clinics. A Somerset County Family Planning clinic is held at the Hospital.

Health and Dental Clinic

These are provided by the Somerset County Council at 54 Summerland Avenue, Minehead.

Nursing Homes

There is one nursing home in the district which provides 15 beds.

/Ambulance Facilities ...

Ambulance Facilities

This service is provided by the Somerset County Council with ambulances stationed at Minehead. A new Ambulance Station is to be provided by the conversion of the former T.A. Centre.

Old Persons Homes

Wyndham House, Martlet Road, which has 33 beds, is maintained by the Somerset County Council's Social Services Department. There are seven private residential homes for the aged with 95 beds. Seventeen old persons dwellings with Warden accommodation are provided by the Council with grant aid from the Somerset County Council. A further 34 dwellings are to be provided. Construction began during the year.

HYGIENE AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

General

The number of inspections and visits made to various premises in the district was 1,200 and are detailed below:-

Abattoir	426
Food premises	136
Rodent control	12
Housing	46
Water Supplies	72
Public Health	182
Infectious Disease	1
Offices, Shops, etc.	325

Housing

The total number of dwellings in the district is 3,194. During the year 67 dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

The total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year was 222.

There was no case of overcrowding reported during the year.

Number of Post-War Houses erected
from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1971

By Local Authority		By Private Enterprise				
272		616				
No. of permanent dwellings in district as at 31.12.69 (a)	Gained from conversions and erected during 1971 (b)	Total (a) + (b)	Less dwellings demolished closed etc. during year	No. of permanent dwellings in district as at 31.12.70 L.A. P.E.		
L.A. 370	-	370	-	370	-	
P.E. 2,752	76	2,828	4	-	2,824	
TOTAL 3,122	76	3,198	4	3,194		

/Improvement Grants ...

Improvement Grants

Number of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority during the year.

	Received		Approved	
	Applications	No. of Dwellings	Applications	No. of Dwellings
Improvement Grants	9	14	8	12
Standard Grants	7	7	4	4
Special Grants	-	-	-	-

Water Supplies

The supply of water to the town is undertaken by the West Somerset Water Board. There are six sources of supply with Nutscale supplying the bulk of the water to the town and the other sources are from Broadwood, Longwood, Periton, Middlecombe and Moor Brake. All the sources, except Moor Brake which is from a borehole, are collected from land springs. All the supplies are chlorinated.

Results of Samples taken for analysis

Raw water				Treated water			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
19	12	6	-	37	1	-	-

"I am pleased to be able to report that there was only one unsatisfactory sample of treated water during the year. Complaints were received from residents in the Woodcombe area about tubifex worms in their water supply in August 1971. The Water Board arranged for complete flushing and sterilisation of the system fed from Turnhill Lea reservoir.

Sewerage

The collapse of the 24" brick sewer near the Pier Hotel, Quay Street, was the main problem to be dealt with during the year. The relaying of 70 yards of this sewer took the whole summer due to difficult ground conditions. During this time the sewage from the whole western drainage area was diverted through an overflow pipe on to the beach opposite Blenheim Road. Every effort was made to disguise and render harmless this unfortunate discharge.

Refuse Disposal

The Quay West refuse tip closed on 31st March and all refuse was taken to the Rodhuish tip from the 1st April. The Quay West area was tidied up and left to settle pending further levelling in 1972.

Rodent Control

One part-time operator is employed to carry out the treatment of premises. Dwellinghouses are not charged for this service but the whole cost of treating business premises is recovered. During the year 128 properties were found to be infested with rats. A minor infestation of the sewers was found.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises

Premises	Number Registered	Number of persons Employed
Offices	43	399
Retail Shops	106	666
Wholesale Departments	2	58
Catering Establishments	17	984
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-
TOTAL	168	2,107

Factories

Particulars of premises registered under the Factories Act, 1961 and the inspections made are as follows:-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	29	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	49	32	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted	
		Remedied	Referred			
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness ..	-	-	-	-	-	
Overcrowding ..	-	-	-	-	-	
Unreasonable temperature ..	-	-	-	-	-	
Inadequate ventilation ..	-	-	-	-	-	
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	-	-	-	-	-	
Sanitary Conveniences						
(a) Insufficient ..	-	-	-	-	-	
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	-	-	-	-	-	
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	-	-	-	-	-	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ..	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	

3. Outwork:-

	No. of out-workers in August list required by section 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel:						
Making etc.	7	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paper Bags	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8	-	-	-	-	-

Swimming Pools

There are three public swimming pools in Minehead. The Lido, Warren Road is privately owned, and is filled with sea water; two are in the Holiday Camp and are filled with fresh water from the Camp supply. The treatment adopted to maintain their purity is re-circulation, filtration and automatic chlorination.

Samples are taken frequently to ensure that the degree of chlorination is maintained and there is no trace of bacterial infection. Results of the tests indicated that in all the pools a safe bathing water was maintained.

Holiday Camp

The Camp catered for approximately 140,000 holidaymakers during the summer season. As in previous years, the Company provided a hygiene adviser who is a retired public health inspector. In 1971 they also employed two public health inspector students who proved to be extremely useful in helping to maintain a high standard of hygiene.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The general standard of cleanliness of all food premises in the town was satisfactory and only minor informal action needed to be taken in a few cases.

The number of premises in the district are as follows:-

Abattoir	..	..	1	Fried Fish Shops	..	..	3
Bakehouses	..	..	0	Fruiterers and Greengrocers		10	
Bakers' Shops	..		3	Grocers and Confectioners		32	
Butchers	..	..	6	Holiday Camp	..	..	1
Cafes	..	..	16	Hostels	..	..	1
Chemists	..	..	4	Hotels with restaurants	..		9
Clubs, etc	..	..	8	Hotels, Residential	..		38
Canteens	..	..	2	Licensed Premises	..	..	9
Church Halls	..		6	Pie Factory	..	..	1
Dairies	..	..	1	Restaurants	..	..	8
Dairy Shops	..		2	School Kitchens	..	..	4
Fishmongers	..		2	Snack Bars	..	..	3

Milk

Number of Milk Samples taken in Minehead Urban District during 1971

Pasteurised	49
Ultra-Heat Treated	5
Untreated	4
	—
	58
	—

The 4 untreated samples which were collected from Mr. F. G. Baker within the Urban District were negative to the test for brucella. He is licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the Rural District of Williton at Greenaleigh Farm, Minehead.

One of the pasteurised samples failed the methylene blue test and two of the untreated samples were unsatisfactory.

Ice Cream

One property is registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and 59 premises for the sale of ice cream.

/Carcases inspected and condemned:- ...

Carcasses inspected and condemned:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	319	-	4	2,116	866	-
Number inspected	319	-	4	2,116	866	-
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20	-	-	12	18	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6%	-	-	0.6%	2%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	3	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.3%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-	<u>All animals</u>					
(a) Tuberculosis	31					
(b) Cysticercosis	-					
(c) Other	390					
Total (in lbs.) condemned	421					

Food Condemned

Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	421 lbs.
Canned Meat and meat products						..	54 tins.
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	..	350 lbs.
Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	..	88 tins.
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	190 tins.
Frozen Foods (Various)					..	..	Value £540.
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	55 lbs and 13 boxes.
Fruit Juice	..	..	..	..	..	..	178 cartons.
Other foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	105 cartons.

Food Poisoning

One case of salmonella food poisoning (S. Typhimurium) was notified.

- - o o - -

There were no substantial health problems in the Urban District during 1971. The need for further major sewerage work was clearly indicated by the collapse of part of the Quay Street sewer and the difficulties experienced in re-laying a length of only 70 yards.

I should like to thank your Public Health Inspector, Mr. Symes, and Mr. Burgess, your Clerk, for their consistently helpful co-operation.

J. Beasley

County Hall,
Taunton.

Telephone: Taunton 3451:

